



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLUE SPRINGS MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS FOR ATTEMPTING TO RECEIVE CHILD PORN VIA MAIL

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Blue Springs, Mo., man, was sentenced in federal court today for attempting to receive child pornography in the mail.

Brian D. Gnavi, 37, of Blue Springs, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to 10 years in federal prison without parole. The court also sentenced **Gnavi** to a term of supervised release for life, following his release from incarceration.

Today's sentence, Graves noted, is an upward departure from the federal sentencing guidelines range. The government supported a final sentencing guidelines range of up to nine years and 10 months in federal prison without parole, while the court applied a guidelines range of up to five years and three months. The court then granted the upward departure to 10 years.

"This substantial sentence reflects the continuing threat this defendant poses to the safety of the community," Graves said. "**Gnavi** had been stalking children in the neighborhood and at local schools prior to his arrest, and was increasingly aggressive in acting out against children."

On Aug. 25, 2005, **Gnavi** pleaded guilty to attempting to receive child pornography through the mail.

"This case is a good example of how neighbors, local law enforcement agencies and federal authorities can work together," Graves said. "Many residents were concerned about **Gnavi's** behavior and alerted local police officials, who provided invaluable assistance in the federal investigation. Thanks to that combined effort, these parents and neighbors won't have to worry about **Gnavi** for a long time."

According to Graves, a postal inspector with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service began an undercover operation after receiving information from the Blue Springs, Mo., Police Department that **Gnavi** was allegedly following children from area middle and elementary schools. There were several incidents, Graves said, in which **Gnavi** was reported to be following or watching young girls near his residence and/or area schools, and had tried to coax a teenage girl into his car.

Using an undercover name and address, the postal inspector contacted **Gnavi** and offered to sell videos containing child pornography. **Gnavi** admitted that he requested seven different videos, and a controlled mail delivery was made at his home two days later, on Dec. 22, 2004.

Postal inspectors executed a federal search warrant of the residence after the delivery. In addition to the unopened parcel, investigators also found the letters that had been mailed to **Gnavi** from the undercover officer concealed in a pornographic magazine titled *Barely 18*, which was under **Gnavi's** bed. **Gnavi** also kept books containing pictures of naked children and a collection of pictures from magazines, catalogs and newspapers in his room. These images consisted primarily of minor females in underwear and swimsuits, all of which **Gnavi** stated he used for sexual arousal. Inspectors also found eight videotapes in **Gnavi's** room that contained recorded television programming having to do with little girls, including news reports about little girls, dance recitals of little girls, a children's program and a little girls' beauty pageant.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Cynthia Phillips. It was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow